

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A touch screen assembly for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a rearview mirror being disposed in an interior of the automotive vehicle and having at least one glass surface;

a plurality of electrodes attached to said at least one glass surface; and

said electrodes closely coupled defining a contact area, said contact area being a region, when touched by an occupant changes electrical characteristics between said electrodes.

2. A touch screen assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said electrodes when touched by an occupant cause a change in capacitance to occur between said electrodes.

3. A touch screen assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said electrodes when touched by an occupant cause a change in resistance to occur between said electrodes.

4. A touch screen assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said electrodes are transparent.

5. A rearview mirror assembly in an automotive vehicle comprising:

a rearview mirror;

a layer of liquid crystal having a first perimeter and defined to be within the physical boundaries of said rearview mirror;

a plurality of first electrodes attached to a surface of said rearview mirror; and

said first electrodes closely coupled defining a contact area, said contact area being a region, when touched by an occupant changes electrical characteristics between said first electrodes.

6. A rearview mirror assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a first polarizing layer, having a second perimeter, disposed to overlap said layer of liquid crystal so that any polarized light passing through said layer of liquid crystal is due to said first polarizing layer.

7. A rearview mirror assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a second polarizing layer, having a third perimeter, disposed to overlap said layer of liquid crystal and spaced from said first polarizing layer, said liquid crystal being sandwiched between the first and second polarizing layers.

8. A rearview mirror assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a transparent second electrode disposed directly adjacent to said layer of liquid crystal.

9. A rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a rearview mirror being disposed in an interior of the automotive vehicle and having at least one glass surface;

a layer of liquid crystal having a first perimeter and associated with said at least one glass surface to display information from said at least one glass surface within a field of vision of an operator of a vehicle;

a transparent first electrode disposed so that it is directly adjacent the layer of said liquid crystal;

a plurality of second electrodes attached to a surface of said at least one glass surface; and

said second electrodes closely coupled defining a contact area, said contact area being a region, when touched by an occupant changes electrical characteristics between said second electrodes.